

Library
KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1965



J. R. GILL AND SON LTD.
KINGSBRIDGE

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246/47

ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Quay House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2122/2196

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1965

Medical Officer of Health: R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health: W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector: L. J. HILL,
C.ENG., A.M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1965.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population—3,290.

Number of inhabited houses at 31st March 1965 according to the Rate Book—1,102.

Number of unoccupied houses—30.

Rateable Value as at 1st April 1965—£122,219.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£492 1s. 7d.

Kingsbridge remains the social and economic centre of the South Hams area of South Devon, a fact recognised by the County Council in designating Kingsbridge a Key Town in the development plan.

The general health of the area continues to be good. The development within the district during the year continued at a similar pace to 1964.

VITAL STATISTICS

Mothers and Infants

Live Births :	Total 45	Male 23	Female 22
	Rate per 1,000 population	13.68	

Illegitimate Live Births :	Total 3	Male 1	Female 2
	Percent of total live births	6.67	

Stillbirths : NIL

Total Live and Stillbirths (Legitimate and Illegitimate): 45

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year): NIL

Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births : NIL

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births : NIL

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live
births : NIL

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live
births): NIL

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000
total live births): NIL

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week
combined): NIL

Maternal Mortality (including abortion): NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH

						M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	—	—
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	—	—
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	1	—		
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	—	—
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	—	—
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	2	1		
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	2	7		
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	5	5		
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	—	—
20	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	4	1		
21	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	—	—
22	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	2	—		
24	Bronchitis	...	...	1	—		
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	1	—		
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	—	—
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	—		
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	—	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	...	...	2	—		
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	1	—		
34	All other Accidents	...	...	1	—		
35	Suicide	...	...	—	—
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	—	—

23 14

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District and Salcombe Urban District).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service provides a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES. The Devon County health handbook gives details of the various services provided in the district by the County.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1965

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1965

There were no new notifications during the year nor any case of death from tuberculosis in any form.

WATER SUPPLY. The supply provided by the South West Devon Water Board is adequate in quantity and of good quality. The water is tested frequently by the Board for contamination, copies of the results being forwarded to the District. The water is also treated at source to reduce plumbo solvency.

Despite my remarks in the 1964 Report and my obvious feelings on the matter, the decisions reached by all the Authorities responsible for the supply of water was that fluoride should not be added to the natural supply.

I can only hope that those members of the Authorities who are so firmly against the idea will be persuaded by wiser counsels to change their opinions in the future.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Small additions to the sewerage system took place in 1965 but not on the scale as in 1964.

During this year the Engineer carried out a series of sampling tests and research into the whole problem of providing the town with a modern system of sewage disposal. At the end of 1965 he had been so far able to clarify the position that the Council accepted his advice on the site of a new disposal works, and had commenced consultation with the adjoining R.D.C. on the relevant planning and technical matters.

I am hopeful that the present somewhat unsatisfactory position will be remedied within the reasonable future, and reports for the next few years will continue to show the position.

HOUSING. The site preparation work for the eleventh housing scheme was completed in 1965 and the contract for the building of 101 houses was put in hand.

In December, 1965, approval was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to the acceptance of a tender.

FOOD

I have no particular comment to make regarding food — I am generally well satisfied with the situation. I feel it is of interest to say that during the year only one calf was submitted for examination for human food (more in hope than certainty) and the Public Health Inspector condemned it wholesale on grounds of immaturity and unsoundness.

Toward the latter part of the year, Mr. Hill was getting increasingly concerned with the situation at the slaughterhouse. The report for 1966 will clear this picture.

The numbers of types of food premises in the area are as follows :—

Greengrocer 5 ; Grocer 13 ; Butcher 5 ; Restaurants 5 ; Wet Fish Shops 2 ; Fried Fish Shops 2 ; Baker 2.

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	...	1
Storage of Ice Cream for sale	...	...	...	27
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.				7
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulation, 1954	...	...	...	3

The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 35. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town remains good.

The Method of Disposal of Condemned Food : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilisers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	235	—	1	1587	—	—
Number inspected	227	—	1	1548	—	—
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned			1			
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	34			49		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	15%			3.16		
Tuberculosis only :			Nil			
Cysticercosis			Nil			

In the above figures are included 409 sheep and 1 bullock inspected for export to the London market.

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) alleging housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	161
(c) other complaints	...	...	...	...	...	13
Nuisances proved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minor housing repairs dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	193
Other complaints remedied	...	...	...	...	...	2
Informal letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions	...	...	...	...	...	117
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	131

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. **INSPECTIONS** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register (3)	Inspect'ns (4)	Number of Written Occupiers Notices Prosec'd (5) (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	— —
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	6	— —
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—	— —
Total	54	9	— —

/ I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1966.

